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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SIMA  
THERAPEUTICS, INC. [US/US]; 2950 Wilderness  
Place, Boulder, CO 80301 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): RADKA, Susan  
[US/US]; 7933 Orion Way, Arvada, CO 80007 (US).  
ZINNEN, Shawn [US/US]; 2378 Birch Street, Denver,  
CO 80207 (US). JADHAV, Vasant [IN/US]; 1951 Grand-  
view Avenue, Aptment #A4-B, Boulder, CO 80302 (US).  
MCSWIGGEN, James [US/US]; 4866 Franklin Drive,  
Boulder, CO 80301 (US). VAISH, Narendra, K. [IN/US];  
1313 Williams Street, #503, Denver, CO 80218 (US).

(74) Agent: GREENFIELD, Michael, S.; McDonnell  
Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP, 300 South Wacker  
Drive, Suite 3100, Chicago, IL 60606 (US).

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(54) Title: DETECTION AND QUANTITATION OF NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES IN BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

(57) Abstract: The present invention concerns processes for the detection and quantitation of nucleic acid molecules, polynucleotides, and/or oligonucleotides in a sample using hybridization-detection assays, antibody-mediated recognition assays, nucleic acid sensor molecules, chromatographic assays, and/or electrophoresis assays. The present invention specifically concerns processes for the detection and quantitation of double stranded nucleic acid molecules, polynucleotides, and/or oligonucleotides in a sample using hybridization-detection assays. The nucleic acid molecules, polynucleotides, and/or oligonucleotides can include molecules that mediate RNA interference, such as short interfering nucleic acid (siNA), short interfering RNA (siRNA), double-stranded RNA (dsRNA), micro-RNA (miRNA), and short hairpin RNA (shRNA) molecules. The nucleic acid molecules, polynucleotides, and/or oligonucleotides can include nucleic acid aptamers, enzymatic nucleic acid molecules, decoys, antisense, 2',5'-oligoadenylate molecules, triplex forming oligonucleotides or any other nucleic acid molecule of interest. The present invention also concerns kits that allow for the detection and quantitation of nucleic acid molecules, polynucleotides, and/or oligonucleotides in a sample.

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